

Hispanic American Experience

Overview

- Major Groups
- Definition
- Historical Information
- Basic Culture Concepts

Definition

According to DoD Directive 1350.2 a Hispanic is a person having origins in any of the following peoples of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, or Central or South America, or other Spanish cultures, regardless of race

Population Trend

- Fastest growing population in U.S.
- Los Angeles-9.6 million, almost half population
- New York-3.6 million, 1/5 cities population
- Miami-2 million, half the cities population
- Houston-1.6 million, 1/5 cities population
- Chicago-1.5 million, 10 % cities population
- San Francisco- 1.4 million, 20% cities population
- Dallas-1.2 million, almost 20% of cities population

Major Groups

- Mexican
- Puerto Ricans
- Cubans
- South Americans

Mexican Americans

- Manifest Destiny paved the way for annexation of Mexican territory
- 1836, Texas Independence
- 1845, Mexican-American War
- 1848, Treaty of Guadeloupe-Hidalgo
- 1920s, Industrial revolution, country growing
- 1930s, Depression, unemployment, rejection sent back
- “Bracero” program, W.W.II-recruited for war effort

Puerto Ricans

- Became Americans by conquest
- Spanish Colonization 1493
- Treaty of Paris
- Jones Act 1917
- Commonwealth 1952

Cubans

- Political refugees
- Communist takeover 1959
- Mareaal Sealift 1980

Central Americans

Many came to the US to seek political asylum to political strife and to escape extreme poverty

South Americans

Immigrated to the US in smaller numbers than other Hispanic groups. Reason for immigration was for better economic conditions. Most were wealthy professional

Basic Culture Concepts

- Race - Can be classified as any race
- Language - Some only speak English, others only Spanish, some are bilingual
- Time of arrival in the US - 1st, 2nd. 3rd generation
- National Origin - Relates to where they came from
- Public Law 94-311 16 June 76 - Provide better definition

Hispanic Families

- Extended family
- Nuclear family
- Father, mother, children and children of mother and father from previous unions
- Mother-based

Family Values

- Family oriented
- Patriarchal
- Roles assigned based on gender
- Older members carry authority
- Mother usual disciplines, father is role model
- Children vary, older females take care of younger children, same with the males, also takes the role of parents
- Grand Parents highly respected

Women's Roles

- Single generalizations an unfair stereotype, factor effecting this
- Degree of acculturation
- Job availability
- Working outside the home

Religion

- Catholicism, about 80% are Roman Catholic
- Growing appeal to Protestantism
- Religion is 50/50. Church perceived as a source of physical and emotional support

Terms

- Machismo-defined as as a learned sense of responsibilities. Refers to Males
- Hemb/Macha applies to females
- Respeto- dignity, to have respect, a person must act worthy of being respected

Hispanic Profile

- Youngest major population
- Rapid growth rate
- Mexicans are largest, Cubans the smallest
- Education profile not good, more likely to drop out
- Income gap has increased
- Highest number of children in poverty

Anti-Hispanic Discrimination

- English only movement
- Discrimination in the workplace
 - If you looked Spanish you didn't get hired
- Education
- Length of time in U.S.
- Language Barriers

Hispanics in the Military

- Underrepresented in all grades
- Inadequate academic preparation
- Lack language and technical skills
- Intense family attachment
- Inadequate time allowed to make enlistment decision
- Retention and adaptability in the environment are important

Military Contributions

- More than 9,900 fought in the Civil War
- Spanish American War, Hispanics served with the Rough Riders
- Insufficient data for W.W.I, David Barkley awarded Medal Of Honor
- 250,000-500,000 served in W.W.II
- During Korean War, 9 Medals of Honor awarded
- 80,000 served in Vietnam, 13 awarded Medal of Honor
- 20,000 participate in Desert Shield/Storm
- Total of 38 Hispanic received the Medal of Honor

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